

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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OPERATION GHOSTBUSTERS NINE MEN INDICTED FOR COCAINE, MARIJUANA CONSPIRACY

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that nine men have been indicted by a federal grand jury for participating in a conspiracy to distribute large quantities of cocaine and marijuana in Cole County, Mo., and elsewhere.

Rodney Keith Rodebaugh, 29, Douglas Eugene Comstock, Jr., 45, David Edward Latham, 30, Frederick William Weddington, 46, and Mark Allen Cavin, 30, all of Jefferson City, Mo.; Shawn D. Reno, 32, of New Bloomfield, Mo., Eugene Rodney Rodebaugh, 54, of Eldon, Mo., Craig Alan Wansing, 30, of Vienna, Mo., and Juan F. Aguilar, 31, of Kansas City, Mo., were charged in a 21-count indictment returned under seal by a federal grand jury in Jefferson City on Jan. 11, 2006. The indictment was unsealed and made public today upon the arrest and initial court appearances of Reno, Latham, Cavin, Weddington, Eugene Rodebaugh and Rodney Rodebaugh.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that all nine of the co-defendants were involved in a conspiracy to distribute, and to possess with intent to distribute, 1,000 kilograms or more of marijuana and five kilograms or more of cocaine in Cole County from 1998 through July 2005.

Counts Two and Three of the federal indictment allege that **Rodney Rodebaugh** distributed cocaine on two separate occasions, on Jan. 8 and 13, 2004, in Cole County. Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Rodney Rodebaugh** distributed marijuana in Cole County on Oct. 27, 2004.

Counts Five through Fourteen and Counts Sixteen through Eighteen of the federal indictment allege a series of telephone calls between **Rodney Rodebaugh** and several co-

defendants to facilitate the conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute marijuana. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal to use a communication facility to facilitate the commission of a felony.

Count Fifteen of the federal indictment alleges that **Rodney Rodebaugh** and **Aguilar** possessed with the intent to distribute marijuana in Jackson County, Mo., on June 25, 2005.

Count Nineteen of the federal indictment alleges that **Comstock** possessed with the intent to distribute marijuana in Cole County on July 29, 2005.

Count Twenty of the federal indictment alleges that **Eugene Rodebaugh** possessed with the intent to distribute marijuana in Miller County, Mo., on July 29, 2005.

Count Twenty-One of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Rodney Rodebaugh** to forfeit to the government any property used to commit the alleged violations, or any property derived from the proceeds of the alleged violations, including a blue 2002 GMC Yukon, \$28,248 seized from his residence, \$3,700 in United States Savings Bonds seized from his residence, a black 1964 Ford Falcon and an orange Harley Davidson 883 motorcycle.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Jefferson City, Mo., Police Department, the Cole County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Cole County, Mo., Prosecutor's Office, MUSTANG (the Mid-Missouri Unified Strike Team and Narcotics Group), IRS-Criminal Investigation and the DEA Task Force in Kansas City.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States
Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html